Phony Ad Indicates President Wants Help

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From the looks of it, the classified advertisement that appeared in The Washington Post Sunday and yesterday was routine:

"ADMINISTRATIVE—Staff positions avail. Call Dick, 456-1414."

The telephone number, however, is the White House's and nobody there admits to placing advertisements in The Post for help, even if there are a number of high-level vacancies there in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

The advertisement apparently was a hoax. Robert McCormick, classified advertising manager, said it was placed over the phone by someone who said his name was "Harry Benson" and gave a phony address and phone number.

At the White House, operators said they had been beseiged with calls, many from people looking for work and not realizing where they were calling. "People call up and say, 'Oh, I must have the wrong number,'" said one operator. "We've had an awful time, there's been a lot of calls to add to our troubles."